Discussion with French Government on Exchange of Technology

177. SHRI ADINARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister ot COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently be held discussion with the French Government on the exchange of technology; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the discussion held and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SUPPLY (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR): (a) and (b) On the occasion of the recent visit for the meeting of the Indo-French Joint Committee on Economic and Technical Cooperation held at Paris from 18th to 20th June 1984; the subject of transfer of technology in certain sophisticated industrial sectors; among other issues; was broadly discussed. Each specific project is required to be followed up by the relevant Departments and agencies of the two countries.

Excise Duty on Rolled Steel Sheets

178. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently imposed excise duty on steel rolling @Rs. 700/- per ton;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a number of steel rolling factories in Wazirpur Industrial Area, Delhi have not been maintaining their production records and do not pay excise duty on the actual production of their rolled steel sheets; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to probe into the matter, and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) and (b) Presumably the Hon'ble Member has in mind the steel rolling factories located in Wazirpur Industrial Area, Delhi who are engaged in manufacture of certain stainless steel products which are described by them as "pattis". These units are reportedly not maintaining the records as prescribed under the Central Excise Rules and are not paying Central Excise duty on the plea that their product is exempt from excise duty.

(c) The position with regard to the dutiabihty of stainless steel 'pattis' was clarified by the Government in April, 1984, when it was stated that stainless steel 'pattis' which conform to the definition of "strips" as given in Explanation (xiv) under Item No. 25 of the Central Excise Tariff, are classifiable as strips under Item 25 (12) (i) of the said Tariff and are to be charged to duty accordingly. Individual cases will be examined and decided by the Collectorate in the • light of the guidelines already circulated.

Non-Payment of Excise Duty by Lonial T.V. Manufacturing Company

179. SHRI MUKHTIAR SlNGH MALIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fart that Lonial T.V. Manufacturing Company near Kingsway Camp, Delhi has not paid any excise duty on the televisions manufactured by them during the last three years; and

(b) wnether Government propose to take any action against this Com? pany for non-payment of excise duty and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN ' THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI S. M. KRISHNA): (a) No, Sir. No instance of non-payment of Central Excise duty by M/s. Lonial Electronics (P) Limited, Delhi, manufacturers of 'Lonial' brand T.V. has come to notice.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a).